

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 675

By Burchett

A RESOLUTION expressing dismay at the success of Hamas in the Palestinian elections and support for the people of the State of Israel.

WHEREAS, Hamas, whose Islamic militants have carried out over 100 major terrorist attacks, including homicide bombings killing more than 500 people, a number which includes 17 American citizens since 1993, opposes peace talks with Israel, and will neither halt their killings nor disarm; and

WHEREAS, Hamas refuses to recognize the right of the State of Israel to exist and continues to call for the total destruction of Israel; and

WHEREAS, a two-state solution to the conflict in the region requires all participants in the process to renounce violence and terrorism; and

WHEREAS, Hamas recently won the majority of the seats in the Palestinian government, making it essential that Hamas recognize the right of the State of Israel to exist; and

WHEREAS, the State of Israel, the United States of America, and the European Union have all classified Hamas as a terrorist organization; and

WHEREAS, the good people of the United States of America gave \$400 million in taxpayer dollars in direct aid to the Palestinian government in 2005 and many millions more through their contributions to the United Nations; and

WHEREAS, acting Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert issued a statement affirming that Israel will not negotiate with a Palestinian government led by Hamas; and

WHEREAS, President George W. Bush issued a statement stating that one party cannot be a partner in peace if they advocate the destruction of a country; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that the members of this body call upon the United States of America, the European Union, the United Nations, and all people of peace throughout the world to refuse to recognize Hamas as a legitimate party in the democratic process until it renounces and ends violence, dismantles its terrorist infrastructure, recognizes Israel's right to exist as a nation, and agrees to conduct direct negotiations with Israel to achieve a peaceful coexistence with the State of Israel.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of this body:

- (1) Affirm our support for the good people of the State of Israel and support the decision of acting Prime Minister Ehud Olmert to refuse to negotiate with the terrorist organization Hamas; and
- (2) Affirm our support for the government of the United States of America and President George W. Bush to suspend further taxpayer-funded aid to the Palestinian government until Hamas is removed from leadership or until Hamas recognizes the right of Israel to exist and other conditions outlined herein; and
- (3) Urge the suspension of taxpayer-funded aid to Palestinian relief organizations in order to guard against the misuse of funds so as to assure the citizens of the United States that no financial aid will go to support terrorist organizations or terrorist activity against the people of the State of Israel; and
- (4) Call upon the government of the United States of America and President George W. Bush to designate taxpayer funds to international relief organizations that do not have ties to terrorist organizations in order to assure that the aid will benefit the impoverished Palestinian people; and
- (5) Call upon the people in the affected territory to peacefully reject the terrorist organization Hamas; and

(6) Congratulate the people of Israel for their peaceful efforts through the years in negotiating peace with people of good will representing the Palestine government; and

(7) Reaffirm our strong support of the Israeli people and the God-given right of the State of Israel to exist, and we offer our full support and prayers during this time of crisis.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Chief Clerk of the Senate is authorized and directed to transmit appropriate copies of this resolution to the public and the press.